

THE DESOTO COUNTY NEWS.

VOLUME IX.

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NUMBER 3.

PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Reports of County Officers Received—Registration Officer Ordered to Send the Books to the Various Precincts—Road Petition Was Refused—Other Matters of Great Importance to the County.

The Board of County Commissioners of DeSoto county convened in regular session March 5, 1906. Members present, Wm. King, N. C. Larson, E. F. Bostick, D. W. Brown. Minutes of February meeting were read and approved.

Permit was issued to the following persons for carrying fire arms: R. J. Davis, C. Y. Crawford.

Regarding road on half section line sec 12, tp 38, r 24, on range line between land of J. S. G. Kabrich and King estate and running through lands of C. S. Bushnell and Marion Waldron on half section line due west to intersect Nocatee public road near old Willford orange grove, objections were made by T. B. King, Marion Waldron and J. S. G. Kabrich against granting above road and said road was refused.

Comptroller is recommended to allow redemption of lands in tp 38, r 26, aggregating about 21,800 acres, property of W. W. Langford, at valuation of 25c per acre without interest.

Tax collector and county judge report license for month ending Feb. 28, as follows: State \$176, county \$100.50.

Supervisor of registration is authorized to forward registration books to different precincts in county according to law. Same to be opened Monday, April 2, and close Saturday, April 28.

Objections filed by D. H. Skipper against road being granted to run as follows: From point where old government road crosses north county line east of Arbuckle Creek and on line of government road to Kissimmee River at old Fort Kissimmee.

Notary bond of J. D. Sutherland for \$500 with Albert Carlton and L. Carlton as sureties, approved and signed by the board.

Notary bond of W. H. Simmons for \$500 with W. W. Langford and Geo. R. Parker as sureties, approved and signed by board.

Justice of the peace bond of J. J. Swearingen with T. B. King and J. G. King as sureties, for \$500 accepted and approved by board.

Petition was received from citizens of Ona and Wauchula requesting that this board make no change in Wauchula and Ona road, petition ordered filed.

Report of county judge to the Hon. board county commissioners DeSoto county, Fla.

Gentlemen: I hand you herewith my report of criminal business for the month of Feb. 1906:

State vs. John Bell assault with intent to murder, discharged.

State vs. Jim Daniels gaming, \$10 and costs, costs paid.

State vs. Joe Brown gaming, \$10 and costs, costs paid.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct report of the criminal business in my court in the month of Feb. 1906.

J. B. Cochran,
County Judge.

The following petition was presented by Forrester & Burton:

To the Board of County Commissioners, DeSoto county. We respectfully represent that on Sept. 1st, 1890, the following property was sold for non-payment of taxes for 1889, for the aggregate sum of \$1764, to wit: Lots 1, 5, 6, block 1; lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, block 2; all blocks 3, 4, 5, 6; lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, block 7; lots 2 and 7, block 8; lots 2 and 7, block 9; lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, block 10; all block 11; lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, block 18; all blocks 13, 14, 15 and lots 1, 2, 6, block 16, Carlton & Wells addition to Nocatee.

That on different and several years since the sale of aforesaid, parts and parcels of the above described property have been sold for additional taxes; that the assessed valuation of the said property for each of the

years for and in which said sales have been made, has been excessive and that the property so sold for non payment of taxes is not worth the amount necessary to redeem it from said sales if the amount required by law should be demanded and required. We respectfully petition your body to recommend to the comptroller of the state that we be permitted and allowed to redeem the said described property, and that such parts thereof as have been sold as aforesaid, by paying to the clerk of the circuit court for DeSoto county the amounts assessed against the said property and for which the same has been sold, without interest.

Forrester & Burton,
Agents and Attorneys.

The above petition is granted and the comptroller is requested to allow the redemption as requested.

Blazers report received from road beginning on Nocatee road at W. A. Jones' corner and running due south along road as now laid out to its intersection with the northern boundary line of the county home, thence east to intersect with range line road and same ordered advertised accordingly to law.

The following proposition was presented:

We, the undersigned offer to lease the prisoners of your county, delivered at your county jail, to feed, clothe and guard, and be governed by the rules and regulations pertaining to the leases of convicts and to pay therefor, the sum of \$18 per capita per month for all convicts, excepting white women and cripples, for one or four years and file with your honorable commissioners an acceptable bond for the faithful performance of our contract.

Respectfully submitted,

T. E. Bridges & Co.

Moved by D. W. Brown and seconded by J. H. Concannon, that convicts be hired out to T. E. Bridge & Co., at \$18 per month. Motion lost. D. W. Brown and J. H. Concannon voting for and N. C. Larsen, E. F. Bostick and William King voting against.

G. W. McLane, J. P. district No. 7, reported State of Florida vs. Joe Martin, petit larceny, dismissed.

A committee was appointed to examine the road leading from J. N. Hollingsworth's corner to the Lily road, and a full board not being present, same was deferred until next meeting.

Petitions were presented from Zolfo and Wauchula asking that James Bond, a cripple, who pleaded guilty to selling whisky at the October 1905 term of the circuit court, be placed in the custody of his mother, who will care for him and see that he does not again engage in selling whisky. Moved and carried that the said James Bond be hired to his mother for 50c per month for balance of his term. He to be returned to jail to serve out his time if again found selling any intoxicating liquors.

J. Coker, J. P. district 16, makes the following report: I beg to report to your honors the following criminal business done in my court for the month of Feb. State vs. Leroy Lebon, petit larceny, plead guilty and fined \$100 and cost, and upon not paying the fine, was sentenced to ninety days in jail. State vs. Arthur Pettes, assault with intent to murder, preliminary examination and on failing to give bond was committed to jail or bound over to circuit court.

A. C. Freeman, sheriff, filed the following report. The following prisoners were confined during said month in the county jail: I. E. Cooper, Kate Driggers, Kate Hunter, Chas. Daniels, Staten Johnson, Anderson Jones, McGinty Hill, James Bond, Grando Silcox, Maud Taylor, Henry Williams, John Bell, Leroy Levers, Dave Smith and Arthur Pitts. The following fines were collected by me and turned over to the county treasurer, F. E. Parker: James Rish, \$126, Joe Brown \$10, James Daniels \$10.

W. C. Langford, tax collector, filed his report. The following taxes were collected during the month ending Feb. 28:

General revenue..... \$ 1155.87

BROWNVILLE.

Brownville, Feb. 28.—We are having some very pleasant weather now. Mr. and Mrs. Alderman were visiting in Gardner Sunday.

Miss Effie Hollingsworth was visiting home folks the latter part of the week.

Mr. B. L. Lambert was calling here Sunday.

We are very sorry to report that Mr. Jessie Alderman is very ill, but hope he will soon be better.

Mrs. W. D. Bell of Fort Myers, is visiting home folks here. She will return home in a few days.

Miss Ethel Williams made a pleasant call in Arcadia Thursday.

Mr. C. J. Williamson of Torry was "calling" here Sunday. "Look out, girls."

Little Miss Jessie Freeman was visiting relatives here Saturday and Sunday.

Mr. Cyril Baldwin made a business trip to Arcadia Friday.

Messrs. Williams and Geiger spent a pleasant week out at the lakes.

Mr. Jesse Rowe and Miss Collie Poo ser passed through Brownville Sunday.

Brownville, March 8.—Quarterly meeting will convene here next Saturday and Sunday. We hope for a large attendance.

The orange growers of this section are rejoicing over their nice crop of bloom.

We are sorry to report that Mr. W. Crawford is quite sick.

Major W. G. Welles of Nocatee, came up Sunday in his automobile.

Mrs. W. D. Bell of Fort Myers, is visiting her father, D. S. Williams, this week.

Miss Bertie Williams is home again, after several months' absence.

A. S. Waldron made a business trip to Punta Gorda.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Rogers, from the East Coast, are visiting the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. L. Swindall.

Mrs. L. Geiger and little daughter, Nola spent Sunday visiting relatives in Wauchula.

Little Miss Mittie Moore is spending this week with friends at Lily.

Edgar Chapman of Plant City, was transacting business here the latter part of the week.

Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Ellis made Arcadia a pleasant call Monday.

Capt. C. Orr is "courting" in Arcadia this week.

Mack Ford is planning to erect a nice cottage on his homestead near Brownville.

Mrs. Mattie Lanier of Owens is visiting her brother, Walter Crawford.

Hon. W. D. Bell of Fort Myers, made a pleasant call in Brownville, Tuesday evening. He was accompanied back by his wife, who has been the guest of her parents for a few days.

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Walker of Arcadia, visited relatives here Wednesday.

Murphy Rogers of Texas, is visiting relatives here.

A Progressive Farmer.

John P. Hendry, an extensive orange grower in the Joshua Creek section, is experimenting with the Irish potato proposition this year having in cultivation seven acres that are very fine, and at a low estimate will yield 100 bushels to the acre and at a moderate price for early potatoes in the northern markets this acreage should net about a thousand or twelve hundred dollars, which is not a bad income from seven acres of land and he can then follow this crop with a crop of corn, sweet potatoes or most anything else he cares to plant and thus make two crops on the same land in one year.

School.....	2697 03
Road.....	3082 32
Fine and forfeiture.....	770 58
Polls assessed 1905.....	122 00
Polls not assessed.....	7 00
County licenses.....	100 50

SPECIAL SCHOOL TAX.

Punta Gorda.....	128.43
Arcadia.....	30.57
Popash.....	46.23
Wauchula.....	75.14
Aven Park.....	12.59
Nocatee.....	25.74
Owens.....	31.89
Oak Hill.....	19.80
Lemon Grove.....	8.64
Bowling Green.....	9.96
Ft. Green.....	10.14
Ft. Bassinger.....	21
Total amount for state.....	2311.74
Total amount for state license.....	201.00
Accounts were audited and paid from the different funds as follows:	
From general revenue.....	\$ 523.44
From road.....	1309.89
From fine and forfeiture.....	232.23

MONEY REFUNDED.

Had Been Drawing Pay for Road Inspection.

Pensacola, March 3.—County commissioners of Florida, and especially of this county are somewhat nonplussed over a recent ruling of the state auditor and orders from the governor, regarding the salaries they shall receive. The ruling of the auditor is to the effect that no county commissioner shall receive more than \$100 per year, no matter what duties he may perform, as the laws of the state cover this point very clearly. As a result a number of the commissioners of this county have been called upon by the governor to make good the amounts they collected in excess of this amount during the past year, and all have complied. The commissioners propose to carry the matter to the courts, however, to get a ruling upon the same. Heretofore, the various county commissioners, when assigned to look after road work, building bridges, etc., charged at the rate of \$2 per diem with mileage, also making the same charge for attending meetings of the board. They are now in somewhat of a dilemma as to how to proceed, as they are compelled to continue supervising the work being done in their districts, and the \$100 allowed per year will no more than cover the cost of mileage and per diem for attending meetings. Some of them contrive the law to mean that the \$100 per year is intended for attending meetings and that all actual expenses in traveling about districts should be defrayed by the county. Not only has the governor called for a settlement from the present members of the board, but also from the old board, which held office for years, and if the former members settle according to this basis it will amount to thousands of dollars.

The above ruling will affect very nearly every commissioner, if not every one, that ever served DeSoto county, it will no doubt take several thousand dollars to refund in this county alone.

It will be a hardship on those who are serving the county in this capacity, \$2 per day and mileage is no pay for competent business men to leave their business, after paying their board and incidentals, they get about 75c per day for their services. The law should be changed so the commissioners can get pay for services rendered.

Hotel Arrivals.

E. H. Lester, Earnest Bradford, V. V. Sharpe, J. W. Pariah, H. C. Robertson, G. R. Bravallas, W. H. Burkhalter, J. C. McNeil, E. W. Coker, A. E. Holmes, D. C. Lucas, S. T. Fletcher, B. A. Brown, W. P. Franklin, J. S. Clark, J. P. Carson, W. T. B. Harrison, Guy S. Davis, Frank Bushnell, H. S. Hampton, F. M. Simonton, Thos. Palmer, L. F. Brunson, Miss Willa Hines, R. D. Anderson, W. G. Rinaldi, Tampa; W. F. C. Fellers, J. B. Prevatt, Jno S. Robinson, E. Braxton, J. R. Dickerson, H. J. Sutton, D. M. Baker, J. E. McElmurry, C. E. Loring, Rube Jones, W. K. Gibson, S. Dunlap, J. W. Fudge, Jacksonville; W. W. Star, Savannah; Geo. Parslee and wife, Illinois; P. C. Coshman, Atlanta; J. S. Sempale, A. W. Gilchrist, Punta Gorda; J. A. Woods, Dade City; J. R. McClain, St. Petersburg; D. G. Goldstein, Georgia; H. Howeston, Boston; W. M. Yergin, DeLand; F. J. Knight, Cuba; F. B. Smith, Boston; R. M. Stedham, J. W. Brady, T. L. Wilson, Bartow; Alex. Durst, West Virginia; S. J. Walles, Chicago; H. C. Crews, Zolfo; Thos. Honnett, Michigan; H. M. Bailey, Savannah; Geo. M. Wright, Lakeland; H. B. Godwin, Ft. Meade; M. O. Shelton, Daytona; T. E. Bridges and wife, D. S. Anderson, Ocala; S. M. Lofton, Pensacola.

Easter Exercises.

The Methodist Sunday school has decided to prepare a special program for observance of Easter, to be rendered by the children on Easter Sunday at the 11 o'clock service hour, in lieu of the usual preaching service. A committee was appointed last Sunday by Superintendent Carlton, that will have in charge the arrangement of the program and church decoration. The public are cordially invited to attend, and the exercises of the hour will doubtless be highly entertaining as well as devotional.

THE CIRCUIT COURT

IS NOW IN SESSION

NOCATEE.

Nocatee, Fla., March 8.—The King Lumber & Manufacturing Co. have taken hold of their plant in a business like manner and great improvements will soon be made. The vast increase in business and the constant demands for lumber, etc., above the capacity, will necessitate the rebuilding of the mill, and a doubling of the present output of the plant. The company has now on hand orders for 100 carloads of pineapple crating. This, together with the large business to be done in the way of vegetable packages, will not only demand the enlargement of the mill but will make it necessary for the veneering mill to run full capacity instead of about half as heretofore.

Besides this, the company will put in an up-to-date steam dry-kiln, machinery for making shingles, thus utilizing the cypress timber, and will establish a wood-camp in the timber lands.

The company expects this week their new 10-wheel, 35-ton engine to be used in the transportation of logs from the timber lands.

All this of course means a great deal for Nocatee. Doubling the capacity of the mill means doubling the working force and a vast increase of money put into circulation in and about our town.

These gentlemen, under the efficient management of Mr. Page are going after things in a business like manner, and the success of this big enterprise means in a great measure the success and growth of our town. There is enough timber about here to run the mill twenty or twenty-five years, and by this time Nocatee should have established herself among the important Florida towns.

Mr. Horace Carlton, of Arcadia, was a visitor here Sunday.

Miss Avannah Hingson spent Saturday morning in Arcadia.

Mr. T. M. Peterson was a visitor in Arcadia last Friday.

Maj. W. G. Welles accompanied by Messrs. B. F. Welles and C. W. Carlton of Tampa, arrived here from Tampa Thursday evening with his four-cylinder Pope-Toledo touring car. It cost \$3,500 and was the best to be found in Tampa. Major Welles drove the machine the entire distance and the trip was quite successful.

Mr. J. G. King of Arcadia, member of the King Lumber Co., was here this week on business.

The new Methodist church is rapidly nearing completion and it is a handsome addition to our town. With the same spirit manifesting itself in the future that has existed for the past few years along lines of public buildings and improvements, we shall have a town to be proud of. Many of our citizens, too, have made marked improvements this spring in their private property. If we only continue this, with our beautiful, well-kept groves to lend a touch of variety, we shall have one of the prettiest little towns to be found anywhere.

Miss Beulah Thomas, who has been assisting in the clerk's office at the county seat, is at home.

Mr. Ed Carney is attending the grand jury this week.

Miss Katerah Walker spent Saturday morning in Arcadia.

Mrs. McGehee and daughters Bessie and Annie, have gone to Fort Pierce to reside.

Mr. Chandler Murdock of Lakeland was the guest of his mother, Mrs. Smith last Sunday.

Dr. W. G. Dawson made a professional call in Arcadia Wednesday.

Col. T. J. Watkins, who has been in Orlando for treatment, is spending a few days with his wife at the home of Mr. R. E. Watkins.

Dr. D. G. Barnett and Miss Judith Watkins of Arcadia, and Miss Statia Tomlin, passed through our town Wednesday afternoon.

Last Friday evening, Mr. T. J. Wellons entertained delightfully his Sunday school class and a few other friends. Those present were: Misses Annie and Iuez Stroud, Kate Green, Ethel Sharman, Eva Dawson, and Arney Smith; Messrs. E. E. Dawson, Albert Carlton, I. L. Maroney, O'Neil, Leon Stroud, Will Vance, Haley Carlton, Harvey Carlton and

Court Opened Tuesday Last—

List of Grand and Petit Jurors

—Little Business Transacted

Thus far—G. H. Gill Elected

Foreman of Grand Jury—

Several Out of Town Attorneys in Attendance.

Circuit court convened in Arcadia Tuesday, March 6, with Hon. J. B. Wall, judge, presiding and State Attorney H. S. Phillips, in attendance.

In addition to the members of the local bar, the following attorneys were in attendance: Colo. W. D. Bell and L. A. Hendry of Ft. Myers, H. J. Spence and J. H. Trabue, Punta Gorda, J. H. Hancock and C. C. Morgan, Ft. Ogden, E. B. Carlton, Wauchula, Thomas Palmer, Tampa.

When court convened State Attorney Phillips made a motion to quash the regular venire of thirty-six jurors which was drawn by the clerk. The motion was granted and the court issued an order for a special venire of thirty-six, made returnable instant.

The following composed the grand jury: G. H. Gill, J. H. Langford, P. Barnhill, W. S. Worley, R. J. Whidden, Ed Carney; Daniel Coker, J. E. Duncan, W. H. Rawls, O. M. Revels, M. W. Coker, Wm. Timmerman, Thad S. Carlton, C. H. Chadwick, C. W. Pearce, O. R. Thatcher, C. V. Goolsby and W. E. McEwen.

The following served as petit jury: G. M. Collier, A. E. Parker, F. E. Platt, E. R. Shackelford, F. B. McClelland, W. B. Connor, W. J. Hendry, S. E. Durranee, J. P. Hendry, D. T. Carlton, A. P. Hollingsworth, D. E. Fidler, P. B. Weaver, H. W. Pearce, and H. E. Knowles, Max Wild and D. S. Williams.

The grand jury selected G. H. Gill foreman and C. V. Goolsby, clerk.

Thus far very little business has been transacted; the following cases have been disposed of:

R. E. Whidden vs. W. T. Alderman, trial by jury, verdict for plaintiff \$238.40.

E. J. Register vs. R. E. Watkins and C. E. Bearce, trial by jury, verdict for plaintiff \$436.79.

A. E. Pooser and Forrester & Burton vs. Julia M. Farrabee and R. L. Cowart, trial by jury, verdict for plaintiffs \$195.

Burrell Farnel vs. F. A. Smith, trial by jury, non suit ordered.

State of Florida vs. Arthur Pitt, assault with intent to murder, arraigned and plead not guilty.

State of Florida vs. Will Graham, selling intoxicating liquors, nolle prossed by state.

The following true bills were returned by the grand jury:

Charles Daniels, murder; Arthur Pitt, assault with intent to commit murder; John Boesch, grand larceny; Henry Williams, grand larceny; John Cowart, Henry Cowart, grand larceny; Herbert L. Mobley, selling intoxicating liquors.

John Boesch was arraigned and entered a plea of not guilty to the charge of grand larceny and was turned over to the United States authorities.

There are several parties in jail awaiting trial, under charges of murder and assault with intent to commit murder, the trial of whom will probably take up the greater part of next week.

W. B. Jones. Delightful refreshments were served, after which the company enjoyed a number of amusing and interesting games.

Mr. — Anderson, recently of Owens, has built a new house on his lot in town and moved his family here.

Mrs. Chandler Murdock of Lakeland, who has been the guest of Mrs. Smith, returned home last Sunday.

Mr. Chas. Wamsley spent Tuesday morning in Arcadia.

Mr. C. W. Carlton of Tampa, is spending the week with relatives and friends here and at Arcadia.

Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Wellons are visiting relatives in Bradentown this week.

Mr. Kirby Carlton, our hustling liveryman, spent part of this week and last in Tampa.